

World Bioenergy Association

And

CROBIOM – Croatian Biomass Association

Signing

Bioenergy Agreement

The greater promotion of bioenergy in Croatia!

From 26th to 27th of February 2018 the leading bioenergy experts of forestry, agriculture, the heating, transport and power sectors, as well as science and technology providers, met at the 8th International Wood Energy Conference in Zagreb.

On this occasion, the biomass associations signed below and published the following declaration as a guideline for the development of bioenergy in Croatia towards 2030.

1. Renewable energy goals up to 2030 and the fossil fuel exit strategy

The UN climate conference of Paris in December 2015 (COP 21) set a new framework for the climate and energy policy. Europe should phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2040 in order to comply with the targets of Paris.

In the future fossil free energy system bioenergy will play an important role to generate heat, electricity and transport fuels. Biomass is stored solar energy and by far the cheapest energy storage solution. Therefore the future use of biomass should be focused on the winter period for heat and electricity and for transport fuels. Europe has a specific responsibility to lead the way to a fossil free society. Technology, know-how, experience, capital, potential and positive examples are available as on no other continent.

Croatia can contribute to European energy independence and global aim to fight climate change. However, it is necessary to change the energy policy in a sustainable one that will encourage the development of new fuels and successful replacement of imported fossil fuels.

Also, through better regulation it is necessary to ensure that the citizens of the various energy cooperatives and other collective schemes can really contribute to the quality of the energy transition, guaranteeing investments in the application of new technologies and solutions.

2. Mobilisation of biomass

The increased need for bioenergy requires a proactive policy to develop the Croatian potential of biomass for energy. Such a policy should include incentives to plant energy crops on abandoned land or on land not needed for food production, incentives to a better use of waste and by-products from agriculture and for an enhanced utilization of sustainably managed forests.

3. Higher pellets consumption!

Pellets are the most economical fuel produced out of biomass with the high energy value. Annual production of pellets in Croatia exceeded 280.000 tonnes, which makes 1.2% of world's production.

Nevertheless, despite impressive numbers, the pellets market also faces many challenges. It is of great importance to enlighten the general public, as well as the decision makers, on the comparative benefits that the usage of the certified and standardised pellet provide, most notably in public institutions such as schools, kindergartens etc. In order to achieve success in these endeavors, it is important to strengthen the cooperation inside and outside of the sector.

4. Transformation of the heating sector

In cities, more district heating and cooling grids are needed. The heat supply for district heating should be converted step by step to fossil free sources such as waste heat from the industry, heat from renewable part of waste incineration, heat from biomass combustion and from solar thermal installations. Individual heating should be more and more based on fossil free sources such as biomass, solar thermal, and high efficient (SPF44) heat pumps based on renewable electricity. It has to be secured that Power to Heat do not support fossil power generation.

5. Carbon Pricing

Croatia needs take leading position in applying innovative solutions. The possibility of introducing a carbon dioxide tax, modeled in Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Norway and other countries should be considered. Such tax is neutral revenue for the state. This would result in the fossil fuels price increase and, therefore, to slowly disappearing from large power plants. Pellets prices would be reduced in relation to oil prices and greater use of using domestic and renewable energy sources would be possible.

Signing organisations:



CROBIOM

Raoul Cvečić Bole, president



WORLD BIOENERGY ASSOCIATION

Remigijus Lapinskas, president